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LWV Bulletin, January, 2008

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HUNTINGTON

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January 2008 Bulletin

**SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS**

JANUARY 21 MEETING

Dr. Cal Kent, from Marshall University and Huntington City Council, will be the speaker at our January 21, 12 noon meeting, at the Ponderosa Restaurant on Rte 60 East.

Dr. Kent will talk about the proposals that Huntington submitted in December to the WV Municipal Home Rule Board for its approval for a pilot project to implement some new procedures in city government. The state may approve up to five cities for five-year pilot programs. If the state approves the proposals, the council will still have to enact ordinances to implement the programs and, in some cases, the state will have to enact enabling laws.

Huntington's proposals included "creating a land bank, changing state law to allow cities to capture fire insurance claim proceeds; having more powers to collect delinquent fees; overhauling its tax structure by implementing a sales tax and/or occupation tax and repealing the \$2-a-week user fee and reducing the business and occupation tax." (Source-Herald-Dispatch. 11/5/07)

Concerns have been expressed that the law allowing the pilot programs may be unconstitutional, the state may not pass the implementing laws, and if cities start some new programs, they may be axed by the state later.

WV has some of the most restrictive laws in the country that limit home rule to cities and counties. Many believe these laws constrain how well cities can better themselves and grow both economically and numerically. The League has a few positions on home rule including allowing more flexibility in local taxing abilities.

We expect at our January 21 meeting an interesting explanation of Huntington's proposals and discussion of the issues and we welcome all interested persons to the meeting. We have reserved a room at the Ponderosa.

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

If you would like to respond to Action Alerts during the upcoming legislative session, please notify Helen Gibbins, gibbins@verizon.net. The WV League's legislative priorities include public financing of elections, protection of WV's high quality waters, promoting the development of 21st century learning in our public schools, and facilitating annexation. The recent state League's newsletter gave a full description of these issues.

MARGARETTE LEACH died in December after a long illness. Using her legislative skills and knowledge as well as her social skills, Margarette contributed substantially to legislation that bettered the lives of many of our WV citizens. She will be missed. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Tom Leach, her widower.

LARGE CONTRIBUTION

We thank the daughters of Bernice Steirn for their contribution to our League in remembrance of Bernice, their mother. Cathy wrote "We are doing this in memory of our Mother, Bernice Steirn. She was an ardent supporter of the LWV. She always appreciated intellectual analysis and pursuit of knowledge. She appreciated good dialogue and conversation. We hope this contribution helps you in your efforts to pursue your goals

and further educate the populace of Huntington." The board will decide how best to use the donation to honor Bernice.

VOTERS SERVICE

The season for voters' service is fast approaching. We plan to organize several candidates meetings and to work with the Herald-Dispatch on publishing candidates answers to questions. Let us know what additional activities you want the League to schedule and if you are willing to help. We also need suggestions for questions to ask the candidates at all levels. Contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@verizon.net

DUES

Those who join the League now will be dues-paying members for all of 2008. When you join the League, you automatically become a member at the local, state, and national levels. Dues renewals start in April or before, if it is more convenient for you. Dues are \$40/member; \$55/for two members in one household; and \$24/full time student. Pay to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701.

Energy Legislation

The national League supported the energy legislation passed late in 2007 that establishes vehicle fuel economy standards, but is disappointed that the law did not include the requirement that 15 % of our country's energy come from renewable sources by 2020.

LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

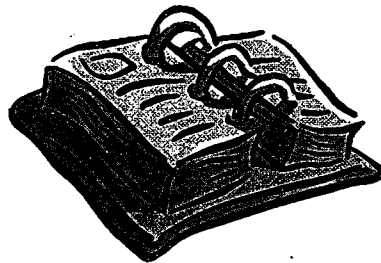
Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

To join, send your check to: Ann Spear, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

LWV Huntington Area

Jane Husted, Editor

CALENDAR



January 21, noon, Ponderosa, Rte 60 East.
League meeting. Dr. Cal Kent, talking about Huntington's proposed plan
January 14-26 Candidates' filing period
February 16, 10 am. West Huntington Library, Meeting with AAUW and National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Topic- Literacy

LWVUS Report

Presidential Voters Guide - The LWVUS is furnishing answers to selected questions from the 2008 qualifying presidential candidates on VOTE411.org and to local and state Leagues that choose to include this information on their websites or printed material that choose to incorporate this information.

Question 1: What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels?

Question 2: What should be our short term and long term goals in Iraq and the Middle East?

Question 3: What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

Question 4: Please explain why you do or do not support setting spending limits for political campaigns and providing a set amount of public funding for all candidates who agree to take no private contributions.

Question 5: What should the federal government do about immigration?

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